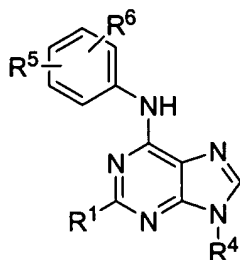


Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

The present invention provides compositions and methods for differentiating and transdifferentiating mammalian cells into cells of an osteoblast lineage, using compounds of the following formula:



wherein R^4 is a functional group including, for example, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, hydroxyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, aryl- C_{0-3} alkyl, substituted with 0-2 R^{4a} groups, and heterocyclo- C_{0-2} alkyl, optionally substituted with C_{1-4} alkyl; R^5 is hydrogen and R^6 is a functional group including, for example, halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, $-C(O)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-SO_2-N(R^{2b}[[,]] R^{2b})$, halo- C_{1-4} alkyl, -O-aryl and $-N(R^7[[,]] R^8)$, or when R^5 and R^6 are on adjacent ring atoms they are optionally taken together to form $-O-(CH_2)_{1-2}-O-$; and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts and hydrates thereof.